

Composite Higgs Models: a new holographic approach

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We revisit the construction of the composite Higgs models in a context of the bottom-up holographic approach. The soft wall framework is under consideration imposing the translation of the 4D global symmetry breaking characteristic to the new strongly interacting sector in the 5D bulk. The focus stays on the minimal $SO(5) \rightarrow SO(4)$ breaking pattern. The 5D model has a specific form inspired by the effective models of QCD, representing a generalized sigma model coupled both to the composite resonances and to the SM gauge bosons. The latter are treated as external 4D sources and conceptually develop no propagation into the bulk. The holographic description allows for the consideration of spin one and spin zero resonances. The resulting spectrum leads in a natural way to a variety of new composite resonances, four of which represent the massless Goldstone bosons. Existing experimental constraints on the electroweak precision parameters permit to accommodate vector and scalar resonances with masses in the 1 – 2 TeV range without difficulties, but higher masses are possible too. Moreover, for the SM gauge fields holography provides relevant vacuum polarization amplitudes and mixing with composite resonances. Further considering higher order correlation functions we can formulate semi-quantitative predictions for the effective couplings and cross-sections. These provide additional restrictions that are currently being investigated.

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1. Introduction

The idea of compositeness of the Higgs boson is motivated by the fact that the minimal version of the Standard Model (SM) with one Higgs doublet although successfully incorporating the electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) does not provide a full understanding of the scales involved nor any explanation on the origin of the fundamental scalar itself.

In the composite models of Georgi and Kaplan one considers an additional strongly interacting sector, characterized by the number of (techni)colours N_{tc} , with a global group G describing a (techni)flavour symmetry. The group G is broken at a scale Λ_{UV} to its subgroup H due to some unspecified QCD-like forces; $SU(2) \times U(1)$ group must remain in the unbroken sector. Composite Goldstone bosons appear in the coset G/H , and the states with the quantum numbers of the Higgs boson should be present among them. The SM group itself $SU(2)' \times U(1)'$ lies in H' , which is rotated with respect to H around one of the broken directions by a misalignment angle θ . Thus, the degree of the breaking of the weak interactions becomes an alignment issue and θ establishes an hierarchy between the UV, $\Lambda_{UV} = 4\pi F$, and Fermi scales, $\Lambda_{IR} = 4\pi v$, via the relation $F = v \sin \theta$.

Further we focus on the minimal composite Higgs model (MCHM) with $SO(5) \rightarrow SO(4)$ breaking pattern [1]. That is the minimal structure to preserve the custodial symmetry and have exactly one Higgs doublet in the coset. In the same time one cannot reproduce an $SO(5)$ global symmetry at the microscopic level introducing fundamental (techni)fermions [2]. The experimental bound on the misalignment in the conventional MCHM is $\sin \theta \leq 0.34$ [3], assuming the coupling of the Higgs to gauge bosons $\kappa_v = \cos \theta$, even though this identification will need to be revised in the context of this type of models.

The holographic technique provides a way to analyze the impact of the compositeness hypothesis on some observables due to facilitation of the calculations related to the strongly interacting sector. Strictly speaking the obtained results correspond to the large N_c (or N_{tc}) limit, but it is common to make a phenomenological sidestep towards some finite values. Moreover it is not possible to proceed model-independently and some specifications are necessary. We propose to use the bottom-up holographic approach with a soft wall (SW). In [1] and subsequent works the hard wall (HW) option was generally used, with the breaking realized on the IR brane. The SW in composite Higgs context is much less studied (there is only [4]) for no apparent reason as, for instance, in QCD it proved to give better description of the meson phenomenology [5]. The breaking in SW scenario also appears in the 5D bulk implying a more complicated structure of the 5D Lagrangian, including vector and scalar states associated to broken and unbroken sectors.

Another issue is the introduction of the SM gauge bosons. That is usually performed in the bulk imposing a Neumann condition in the UV for some modes (as in [4]). However, in our opinion, this promotion of EW bosons into the bulk comes in tension with the holographic treatment being supposedly valid only in the regime of a strong coupling. We propose to treat SM gauge fields perturbatively on the UV brane and consider them as sources of the vector currents of $SO(5)$ with the same quantum numbers, thus

$$\mathcal{L}_{4D} = \widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{str.int.} + \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \widetilde{J}^a{}^\mu W_\mu^a + \widetilde{J}^Y{}^\mu B_\mu, \quad (1.1)$$

where the tilde on the Lagrangian of the strongly interacting sector and its currents (J_μ^a and J_μ^Y)

signifies the realization of the misalignment through the rotation of the $SO(5)$ generators,

$$T^A(\theta) = r(\theta)T^A(0)r^{-1}(\theta), \text{ with } r(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} 1_{3 \times 3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) & \sin(\theta) \\ 0 & -\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{pmatrix}, \quad A = 1, \dots, 10. \quad (1.2)$$

In order to have less free parameters it is essential to make an assumption on the microscopic structure of the strongly interacting sector. This can be achieved by constructing the two-point correlators of the following operators and matching their short-distance expansion to a holographic result. We choose a scalar field of rank 2, $s^{\alpha\beta}$, then the Lagrangian invariant under the global $SO(5)$ transformation is $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu s_{\alpha\beta}\partial^\mu s_{\beta\alpha}^\top - \frac{1}{2}m^2 s_{\alpha\beta}s_{\beta\alpha}^\top$. We can construct a scalar invariant $s^{\alpha\gamma}s^{\gamma\alpha}$, giving a scalar operator $\mathcal{O}_{sc}^{\alpha\beta}(x) = s^{\alpha\gamma}s^{\gamma\beta}$ with dimension $\Delta = 2$, spin $p = 0$; and a Noether current $i[T^A, s]_{\alpha\beta}\partial^\mu s_{\beta\alpha}^\top$ giving a vector operator $\mathcal{O}_{vec}^{A\mu}(x)$, with $\Delta = 3$, $p = 1$. We establish the $5D$ masses for the fields dual to these operators following the general formula from the AdS/CFT dictionary $M^2R^2 = (\Delta - p)(\Delta + p - 4)$ [6, 7, 8].

In the end holography provides all the necessary n -point functions of the composite operators to calculate self-energies for the SM gauge bosons and analyze possible effective interactions and mixings between EW and composite degrees of freedom.

2. 5D setup

We work with the $5D$ AdS metric given by $g_{MN}dx^M dx^N = \frac{R^2}{z^2}(\eta_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu - d^2z)$, where R is the AdS radius and the convention for the Minkowski space is $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(1, -1, -1, -1)$. The $SO(5)$ invariant action has the following form

$$S_{5D} = -\frac{1}{4g_5^2} \int d^4x dz \sqrt{-g} e^{-\Phi(z)} \text{Tr} F_{MN} F_{MN} \quad (2.1)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{k_s} \int d^4x dz \sqrt{-g} e^{-\Phi(z)} \text{Tr} \left[D_M H^\top D^M H - M^2 H H^\top - M^2 (H D^\top + H^\top D) \right].$$

The normalization constants have the dimensionality $[g_5^2] = [k_s] = L^1$; and following the SW holographic approach we have introduced a dilaton exponent with $\Phi(z)$. The $5D$ mass of the scalar field $H(x, z)$ is $M^2R^2 = -4$, while the vector fields A_M get the zero one. The dynamical breaking from $SO(5)$ to $SO(4)$ happens in the scalar sector due to a function $f(z)$ appearing in the nonlinear parameterization of H :

$$H(x, z) = \xi \Sigma \xi^{-1}, \quad \Sigma(x, z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{4 \times 4} & 0 \\ 0 & f(z) \end{pmatrix} + iT^a \sigma^a(x, z), \quad \xi(x, z) = \exp\left(\frac{i\pi^i(x, z)\hat{T}^i}{\sqrt{2}f(z)}\right). \quad (2.2)$$

We use a standard representation of the $SO(5)$ generators enumerating separately the ones of the unbroken $SO(4)$ sector as T^a , $a = 1, \dots, 6$ and the rest which are broken \hat{T}^i , $i = 1, \dots, 4$. Consequently, for the vector fields we have $A_M = A_M^A T^A = A_M^a T^a + A_M^i \hat{T}^i$.

The matrix field D is introduced in Eq. (2.1) to provide an explicit soft breaking that is used in order to fine-tune to zero the masses of the would-be Goldstone bosons π^i , as the boundary conditions make them naturally massive. It is parameterized by a function $b(z)$ as $D = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{4 \times 4} & 0 \\ 0 & b(z) \end{pmatrix}$.

The summary of ansätze functions is: $\Phi(z) = \kappa^2 z^2$, $f(z) = f \cdot \kappa z$, $b(z)/f(z) = \mu_1 + \mu_2 \cdot \kappa z$, where we determine $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = -1$ (massless condition for the Goldstone bosons), while f and κ are the parameters of the model. We choose the $A_z = 0$ gauge which is standard for SW models in QCD and can still set $\partial^\mu A_\mu = 0$ with a consistent gauge transformation.

From the quadratic part of the $5D$ Lagrangian we can get the masses of the composite resonances in $4D$ and the two-point correlators of the composite operators. For the properties of the $4D$ resonances we look for the normalizable solutions of equations of motion subject to the Dirichlet boundary condition at $z = \varepsilon$. For the correlators we can use the AdS/CFT prescription on the variation of the on-shell $5D$ action that is holographically connected to the $4D$ partition function $\ln \mathcal{Z}_{4D}$ defined via

$$\mathcal{Z}_{4D}[\phi_\sigma] = \int [\mathcal{D}s] \text{Exp } i \int d^4x [\mathcal{L}_{str.int.}(x) + \phi_{\sigma\mu}^A(x) \mathcal{O}_{vec}^{A\mu}(x) + \phi_\sigma^{\alpha\beta}(x) \mathcal{O}_{sc}^{\beta\alpha}(x)]. \quad (2.3)$$

Consider first the vector sector. The $5D$ vector fields can be represented as Kaluza–Klein (KK) infinite towers of $4D$ massive states with specific z -profiles holographically provided. The $4D$ masses explicitly depend on the model, and in the present context we have (V and A correspond to unbroken and broken directions in resemblance to vectors and axial-vectors of QCD):

$$M_V^2(n) = 4\kappa^2(n+1), \quad M_A^2(n) = 4\kappa^2 \left(n+1 + \frac{(g_5 R f)^2}{2k_s} \right), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (2.4)$$

The vector correlators are defined as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{O}_\mu^{a/i}(q) \mathcal{O}_\nu^{b/j}(p) \rangle &= \delta(p+q) \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle \mathcal{O}_\mu^{a/i}(x) \mathcal{O}_\nu^{b/j}(0) \rangle = \frac{\delta^2 i \mathcal{S}_{5D}^{on-shell}}{\delta i \phi_{\sigma\mu}^{a/i}(q) \delta i \phi_{\sigma\nu}^{b/j}(p)}, \\ i \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle \mathcal{O}_\mu^{a/i}(x) \mathcal{O}_\nu^{b/j}(0) \rangle &= \delta^{ab/ij} \left(\frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2} - \eta_{\mu\nu} \right) \Pi_{V/A}(q^2). \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

After subtracting the generic ambiguities of a form $C_0 + C_1 q^2$ we obtain the following result

$$\Pi_V(q^2) = \sum_n \frac{q^4 F_V^2}{M_V^2(n)(-q^2 + M_V^2(n))}, \quad \Pi_A(q^2) = \sum_n \frac{q^4 F_A^2(n)}{M_A^2(n)(-q^2 + M_A^2(n))} - F^2; \quad (2.6)$$

$$F_V^2 = \frac{2R\kappa^2}{g_5^2}, \quad F_A^2(n) = \frac{2R\kappa^2}{g_5^2} \frac{n+1}{n+1 + \frac{(g_5 R f)^2}{2k_s}}, \quad F^2 = \frac{2R\kappa^2}{g_5^2} \sum_n \frac{\frac{(g_5 R f)^2}{2k_s}}{n+1 + \frac{(g_5 R f)^2}{2k_s}} \quad (2.7)$$

A similar analysis applies for the part of the Lagrangian with the scalar fields. The masses of the KK radial excitations in the unbroken scalar and broken Goldstone sectors are

$$M_\sigma^2(n) = 4\kappa^2(n+1), \quad M_\pi^2(n) = 4\kappa^2 n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (2.8)$$

And for the correlators we can get (the proper operators descend from $\mathcal{O}_{sc}^{\alpha\beta}$: $\mathcal{O}_s^a = T^a_{ss}$, $\mathcal{O}_p^a = \widehat{T}^a_{ss}$)

$$i \int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle \mathcal{O}_{s/p}^a(x) \mathcal{O}_{s/p}^b(0) \rangle = \delta^{ab} \Pi_{S/G}(q^2), \quad (2.9)$$

$$\Pi_S(q^2) = \sum_n \frac{F_\sigma^2}{q^2 - M_\sigma^2(n)}, \quad \Pi_G(q^2) = \sum_n \frac{F_\pi^2}{q^2 - M_\pi^2(n)}; \quad F_\sigma^2 = \frac{16\kappa^2 R}{k_s}, \quad F_\pi^2 = \frac{16\kappa^2 R}{k_s}. \quad (2.10)$$

The free parameters g_5^2 and k_s can be matched to a single parameter of the $4D$ strongly interacting sector. The large Q^2 limit of the listed correlators should be compared with the one obtained by the usual field theory methods in $4D$. We find that the following relations are valid:

$$\frac{k_s}{R} = \frac{64\pi^2}{5N_{tc}}, \quad \frac{g_5^2}{R} = \frac{8\pi^2}{5N_{tc}}. \quad (2.11)$$

3. Two point functions and mixings for the SM bosons

In the effective Lagrangian (1.1) a certain $SU(2)' \times U(1)' \subset SO(4)'$ is already gauged because the SM fields W_μ^a and B_μ couple to the particular currents of the strongly interacting sector. They are among the vector currents that are holographically connected to the vector composite fields. Let us name the first three operators of the unbroken vector sector $\mathcal{O}_\mu^{aL}(x)$ and the last three $-\mathcal{O}_\mu^{aR}(x)$. Then W_μ^a couples to $J_\mu^a = \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} O_\mu^{aL}$ and B_μ to $J_\mu^Y = \frac{g'}{\sqrt{2}} O_\mu^{3R}$, as we assume the hypercharge to be realised as $Y = T_{3R}$. Hence, we may include to the 4D partition function the following terms quadratic in the external sources W and B : $W^\mu \langle \tilde{J}_\mu^L(q) \tilde{J}_\nu^L(-q) \rangle W^\nu$, $W^\mu \langle \tilde{J}_\mu^L(q) \tilde{J}_\nu^R(-q) \rangle B^\nu$, $B^\mu \langle \tilde{J}_\mu^R(q) \tilde{J}_\nu^R(-q) \rangle B^\nu$. The relevant quadratic contribution of the 4D effective action is

$$S_{4D}^{eff} \supset \int d^4q \left[\left(\frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^2} - \eta^{\mu\nu} \right) \frac{1}{4} \Pi_{diag}(q^2) (g^2 W_\mu^1 W_\nu^1 + g^2 W_\mu^2 W_\nu^2 + g^2 W_\mu^3 W_\nu^3 + g'^2 B_\mu B_\nu) \right. \\ \left. + \left(\frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^2} - \eta^{\mu\nu} \right) \frac{1}{4} \Pi_{LR}(q^2) g g' W_\mu^3 B_\nu \right], \quad (3.1)$$

$$\Pi_{diag}(q^2) = \frac{1 + \cos^2 \theta}{2} \Pi_V(q^2) + \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{2} \Pi_A(q^2), \quad (3.2)$$

$$\Pi_{LR}(q^2) = \sin^2 \theta (\Pi_V(q^2) - \Pi_A(q^2)) \quad (3.3)$$

The diagonal self-energies result in the mass terms for the gauge fields in a small q^2 limit

$$M_W^2 = \frac{g^2}{4} \sin^2 \theta F^2, \quad M_Z^2 = \frac{g^2 + g'^2}{4} \sin^2 \theta F^2, \quad M_\gamma^2 = 0. \quad (3.4)$$

The left-right two-point function defines the S parameter of Peskin and Takeuchi. In terms of the masses and decay constants of the vector composite states it gets a form (in our description $F_V(n) = F_V$ for all values of n)

$$S = 4\pi \sin^2 \theta \left[\sum_n \frac{F_V^2(n)}{M_V^2(n)} - \sum_n \frac{F_A^2(n)}{M_A^2(n)} \right]. \quad (3.5)$$

All other electroweak oblique parameters are vanishing or naturally small in the considered model.

At the same time the structure of the correlation functions provides the mixing between gauge bosons and composite resonances. For instance, for the W field we have ($\mathcal{D}^{\mu\nu} = \square \eta^{\mu\nu} - \partial^\mu \partial^\nu$)

$$+ \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^a(x) \mathcal{D}^{\mu\nu} \sum_n \frac{F_V}{M_V(n)} \left[\frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2} A_{L\nu(n)}^a(x) + \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2} A_{R\nu(n)}^a(x) \right] \\ - \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^a(x) \mathcal{D}^{\mu\nu} \sum_n \frac{F_A(n)}{M_A(n)} \frac{\sin \theta}{\sqrt{2}} A_{br\nu(n)}^a(x) \quad (3.6)$$

It is straightforward to get the eigenstates subsequently diagonalizing the kinetic terms and mass matrices. We show further that the mixing is not very significant numerically.

4. Mass and mixing estimations

The masses of the composite resonances are governed by the scale of parameter κ . The latter can be constrained from the experimental values known for quantities of Eqs. (3.4) and (3.5). The

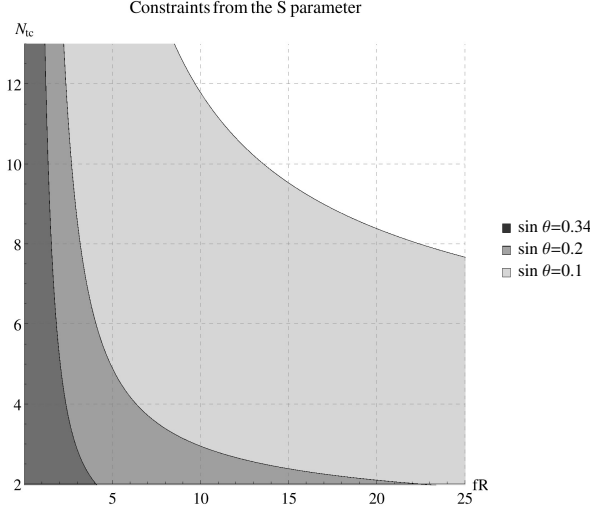


Figure 1: The $(\sin \theta, fR, N_{tc})$ parameter region allowed by the S parameter restraints.

first provides a particular equation that combines the model parameters κ , $\sin \theta$, fR , N_{tc} . The latter should be considered as an expression of the S parameter in terms of $\sin \theta$, fR , N_{tc} . We take from [9]

$$-0.06 \leq S \leq 0.16, \quad (4.1)$$

and obtain the areas these parameters may span as depicted in Fig. 1. Further, we would like to see the extreme case, *i.e.* to take the parameters maximally saturating the S bound. This results in the minimal possible values of the masses. One can see from Table 1 that the proposed programme can accommodate rather light values for the ground states $M_V(0)$ and $M_A(0)$ of order 1 – 2 TeV, but higher masses are certainly not excluded.

Other general observations are following. Consider fixing any two parameters among $(\sin \theta, fR, N_{tc})$, then the growth of the third parameter results in smaller κ and a possibility of lower masses. Indeed, an unlimited growth in fR results in unlikely small masses for $\sin \theta \lesssim 0.1$. However, higher values of other two parameters soon face the upper experimental limit of the S parameter.

Table 1: Different predictions of the minimal vector masses for $\sin \theta = 0.25$ and 0.30 .

$\sin \theta$	N_{tc}	fR	$M_V(0)$, TeV	$M_A(0)$, TeV
0.25	2	9.1	0.89	2.20
0.25	3	5.2	1.21	1.99
0.25	4	3.9	1.37	1.92
0.25	10	2.0	1.66	1.86
0.30	2	5.5	1.26	2.14
0.30	3	3.7	1.50	2.03
0.30	4	2.9	1.61	1.99
0.30	10	1.6	1.81	1.96

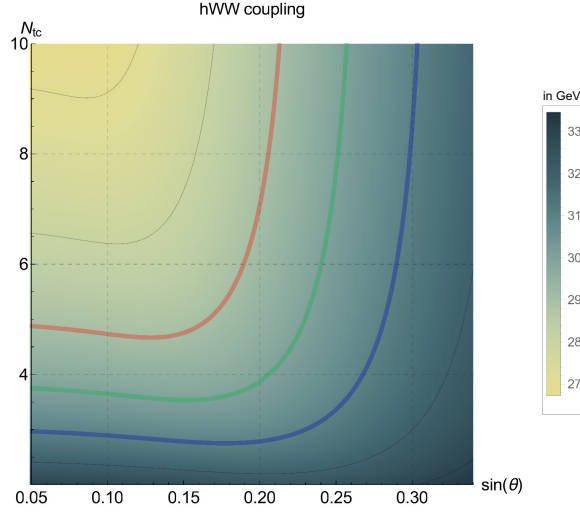


Figure 2: Values of the hWW coupling on the $N_{tc} - \sin \theta$ plane. The curves show the particular constant values with a step of 1 GeV, in particular, the red one represents 29 GeV, green - 30 GeV and blue - 31 GeV.

Concerning the mixing we take some particular cases corresponding to the lines in Table 1. In our estimation the main demonstration of the mixing is in a state corresponding to the diagonal 'W'; it may have from 2 to 6 % of A_L and the rest of original W . The changes are rather insignificant: only the diagonal ' A_L ' gets 1 – 2 % heavier. However, these results are for the minimal mass option argued above. One can consider heavier states taking lower values of fR for the same $\sin \theta$ and N_{tc} , then the mixing is more obvious, *e.g.* between A_L and A_{br} . The masses of diagonal ' A_L ' and ' A_{br} ' tend to become larger, while those of ' A_R ' and ' W ' remain the same.

5. Three point functions

We focus now in some particular couplings. Let us consider *e.g.* the g_{hWW} vertex. To get the direct coupling of this kind we modify the 5D Lagrangian with a redefined covariant derivative

$$D_\mu H(x, z) = \partial_\mu H(x, z) - i[A_\mu(x, z), H(x, z)] - i[\tilde{X}_\mu(x), H(x, z)] \quad (5.1)$$

where we include gauge boson fields in a bulk through a rotated field with $SO(4)$ indices $\tilde{X}_\mu = X_\mu^a r^{-1}(\theta) T^a(0) r(\theta)$. It is important that X_μ is assumed to be z -independent. The particular connection to the SM W is $X_\mu^L \alpha = \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^\alpha$. This modification results in a particular three point vertex $WW\pi^4$ in 5D. The 4D vertex is obtained integrating out the z -dimension using the Kaluza-Klein representation of π^4 and flat profiles of W . Recognizing $n = 0$ mode of π^4 as the Higgs field we get

$$\mathcal{L}_{4D} \supset \frac{g_{hWW}}{2} h W_\mu^{1,2} W^{1,2\mu}, \quad g_{hWW} = \frac{g^2 \sin \theta}{2} \kappa(fR) \sqrt{\frac{R}{k_s}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos \theta. \quad (5.2)$$

The possible value of the coupling are depicted at Fig. 2, κ parameter is determined following the minimal mass approach of the previous section. These results give couplings well below the naive estimation $\kappa_V = \cos \theta$. Rather, the comparison with the SM analytic expression $g_{hWW}^{SM} = \frac{g^2 F \sin \theta}{2}$

shows that in the present model

$$g_{hWW} = g_{hWW}^{SM} \cdot \kappa_V, \quad \kappa_V = \cos \theta \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\sum_n \frac{1}{1+n+\frac{(g_s R f)^2}{2k_s}} \right)^{-1/2}. \quad (5.3)$$

Additionally there is a contribution to g_{hWW} from the mixing of W with vector resonances. As well through the mixing there exist WW -composite resonance effective vertices that could be considered. A more detailed analysis will be given in a future publication.

6. Conclusions

A new 5D holographic setup for the description of the composite Higgs phenomena is presented here. It is inspired by AdS/QCD achievements but has a distinct Lagrangian of a generalized sigma model coupled both to the composite resonances and to the SM gauge bosons. The particular ansatz consists in the dilaton z -profile (common to all SW holographic models), and two functions $f(z)$ and $b(z)$. Among the model features we highlight that the Goldstone bosons can be made exactly massless; the vectors and scalars of the unbroken sector are degenerate in mass; g_{hWW} is distinct from that of the conventional MCHM.

From the phenomenological point it is significant that the S parameter restrictions can be met in quite large areas in the parameter space, where in the same time a resonance between 1 and 2 TeV could be accommodated.

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